

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

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SUBJECT: MARCOS APPOINTS TWO NEW ELECTION COMMISSIONERS

1. SUMMARY: PRESIDENT MARCOS MAY 18 NAMED TWO JUDGES TO THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS, REPLACING RETIRING COMMISSIONERS YANEZA AND MADARANG. THE ACTION PRESERVES COMELEC'S BARE QUORUM AND PERMITS IT TO COMPLETE ITS WORK ON THE INTERIM LEGISLATURE ELECTIONS. END SUMMARY.
2. THE TERMS OF OFFICE OF COMELEC COMMISSIONERS VENANCIO YANEZA AND CASIMIRO MADARANG EXPIRED MAY 17, LEAVING ONLY THREE REMAINING COMMISSIONERS. CONSTITUTIONALLY, COMELEC SHOULD HAVE NINE MEMBERS, BUT PRESIDENT MARCOS HAS KEPT IT AT FIVE FOR THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS. WITH THESE RETIREMENTS COMELEC LOST ITS QUORUM AND LEGALLY COULD NOT TRANSACT BUSINESS AFTER MAY 17. LEFT HANGING WERE THE FORMAL PROCLAMATION OF EIGHT WINNERS OF THE INTERIM LEGISLATURE ELECTIONS FOR REGION XII (COTABATO) AND THE RESOLUTION OF SEVERAL ELECTION PROTESTS. (THE COTABATO RESULTS WERE PROMISED FOR THIS WEEK, BUT THE SUPREME COURT MAY 17 ISSUED A RESTRAINING ORDER. A HEARING HAS BEEN SET FOR MAY 23. THE OPPOSITION "COMMUNITY CONSENSUS" PART IS CLAIMING MASSIVE FRAUD BY PRO-KBL OFFICIALS THROUGHOUT THE REGION AND PARTICULARLY IN LANA DEL SUR PROVINCE.)
3. ON MAY 18 PRESIDENT MARCOS ANNOUNCED THE APPOINTMENT

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OF TWO NEW COMELEC COMMISSIONERS, MANILA JUDGE DOMINGO PABALATE AND COURT OF APPEALS JUSTICE VICENTE SANTIAGO, JR. THEY WILL SERVE FIVE-YEAR TERMS ENDING MAY 17, 1983. PRESS REPORTS PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING BIO DATA:

4. JUSTICE SANTIAGO HOLDS AN ASSOCIATE OF ARTS DEGREE FROM THE ATENEO DE MANILA UNIVERSITY, BACHELOR OF LAWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES, AND MASTER OF

LAWS FROM THE YALE LAW SCHOOL. HE IS A PROFESSOR, BAR REVIEWER, AND PROFESSORIAL LECTURER IN LAW AT THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES AND WAS FORMERLY DISTRICT JUDGE OF THE PANGASINAN COURT OF FIRST INSTANCE, PRESIDING JUDGE OF THE MANILA JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS COURT AND PAMPANGA AND BULACAN CIRCUIT CRIMINAL COURTS. HE WAS APPOINTED TO THE APPEALS COURT IN 1975. HE IS 50 YEARS OLD.

5. JUDGE PABALATE STARTED HIS CAREER AS AN ASSISTANT ATTORNEY IN A PRIVATE LAW OFFICE, MOVED ON TO THE LEGAL OFFICE OF THE CITY MAYOR OF MANILA AND WAS APPOINTED ASSISTANT CITY FISCAL (PROSECUTOR) OF MANILA. HE HELD THE POSITION UNTIL HE WAS ELEVATED TO THE CITY COURT IN 1972. HE RECEIVED HIS BACHELOR OF LAWS DEGREE FROM MANUEL L. QUEZON UNIVERSITY AND HIS MASTER OF LAWS DEGREE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF PAKISTAN IN 1975. HE IS 42. TOUSSAINT

NOTE BY OC/T: TELEGRAM DELAYED IN TRANSMISSION

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